



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:  
APRIL 21-27, 2013

### Japanese knotweed *Polygonum cuspidatum*



Photo: Leslie Mehrhoff



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- **LEAVES:** Simple, alternate, broad, up to 6 inches long and 5 inches wide with an abruptly pointed tip and a flat base.
- **STEMS:** Upright, round, hollow, dead stalks resemble bamboo
- **FLOWERS:** Numerous, small, green-white flowers on a slender stalk that bloom August-September.
- **HABITAT:** Semi-shade tolerant; found along roadsides, stream and river banks, wetlands and woodland edges
- **STATUS:** Widespread in southern half of the lower peninsula. Isolated occurrences in northern lower and upper peninsulas.

**Problem:** Poses a significant threat to riparian areas where it prevents streamside tree regeneration. Resembles bamboo but is not related. More information can be found on MIDNR's website: [www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies).



Photo: Tom Heutte



Photo: Leslie Mehrhoff



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